

December 2009  
Volume 5, Issue 12

Member of Ohio Chamber of  
Commerce & U.S. Chamber of  
Commerce

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Sustaining Member  
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Center

## Chamber Events

**12/3**     *“Toast of the Town”*  
AAA Miami Valley  
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
221 N. Aukerman St.  
Eaton, Ohio

**12/10**    *“Chamber Holiday  
Happy Hour”*  
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
At Taffy’s  
123 E. Main St.  
Eaton, Ohio

**Preble County  
Chamber of Commerce**  
122 W. Decatur Street  
P.O. Box 303  
Eaton, Ohio 45320  
Phone: (937) 456-4949  
<http://www.preblecountyohio.com/>

# CHAMBER NEWS

*“Promoting free enterprise and advancing the business community of Preble County”*



## TOAST OF THE... Town

December 3, 2009  
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

AAA – Miami Valley  
221 N. Aukerman Street  
Eaton, Ohio

Anticipate entertainment, refreshment, prizes  
& good cheer!

## President’s Message:

2009 was a productive year for the Preble County Chamber of Commerce. Here are a few highlights:

- Membership benefits continue to provide cost-saving benefits in excess of six figures, including a new health care program through United Health Care and the Southern Ohio Chamber Alliance to save businesses up to 20% on premiums.
- The Preble County Safety Council (administered by the Chamber) issued the workers compensation rebate checks to employers amounting to approximately \$90,000.
- We lobbied successfully to prevent the Employee Free Choice Act from reaching a vote in Congress.
- Mike Snell, Division Mgr. of Silfex Corp., was our nominee for the Area 7 Workforce Investment Board. Mike’s technical and international business knowledge makes him an outstanding representative of Workforce Development needs in Preble County.
- We are working with *Connect Ohio* toward the expansion of broadband access in Preble County.
- We changed our brand name by dropping “Eaton” from the brand. The change has been well-received and broadens our appeal to all of Preble County.
- We added three Toast of the Town events to our schedule and we are booked through June 2010.
- Proceeds from the Annual Golf Tournament allowed us to sponsor students for Ohio Business Week and provide a \$1,000 academic scholarship to a local student.
- We held a very successful Economic Development forum in March. In September, the President and CEO of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce was our keynote speaker.

Continued.....

## **Board of Directors**

### **Shanna M. Renner Chairperson**

Fifth Third Bank  
456-7306

**Larry Englert, Treasurer**  
Williams & Keckler, LLC  
456-4393

**Charles Pennington**  
787-4535

**Bradley Neavin**  
Eaton Community Schools  
456-1107

**Ron Gard**  
Girton-Schmidt-Boucher  
Funeral Home  
456-3333

**Ray Potter**  
SCORE  
456-1241

**Howard Carter**  
Carter Cleaning Enterprises, LLC  
533-1732

**Kathy Schulz**  
The Dow Chemical Company  
839-1307

**Leslie Collins**  
The Register Herald  
456-5553 Ext. 110

**Jeremy Hamilton**  
CPH Service, LLC/dba  
McDonalds  
456-3830

**Kristi Marcum**  
Preble County Board  
Developmental Disabilities

**Matt Appenzeller**  
Executive Director  
456-4949

**Virginia Lindsey**  
Secretary  
456-4949

- We are currently conducting a feasibility study to determine whether or not a Foundation for economic development can be established in Preble County.
- The Consumer Fair & Trade Show showcased more than 40 local businesses.

All of this contributed to surpassing last year's record number of new investors despite a difficult economy. We will continually evolve to meet the needs of our investors. If you have suggestions to help further maximize your investment, please call us at (937) 456-4949.

On a final note, the Annual Awards Banquet has been moved to February 2010. We will keep you posted on details of this event. We would also like to extend our best wishes to everyone during the Holiday Season.

Shanna Renner, Chairperson  
Preble County Chamber of Commerce  
Board of Directors

## **AAA "Toast of the Town"**



The "Toast of the Town" on **December 3<sup>rd</sup>** will be held at the **AAA office located at 221 North Aukerman Street in Eaton, Ohio.**

AAA is very excited for everyone to drop in and will be offering a special membership rate for anyone interested in joining during the event. Of course, agents will be available to advise guests on the most cost-effective holidays for those searching for an adventure via car, plane, rail, or ship.

AAA is also offering a Pocket Atlas to anyone bringing a non-perishable food item for the benefit of the Preble County Food Bank. The Food Bank is such a worthy cause and they will really need a lot of items as we head into this Holiday Season. What better way to foster "Peace on Earth" than by generously helping the Food Bank?

Anticipate entertainment, refreshments, prizes, and good cheer!

## **"Chamber Holiday Happy Hour"**



You're invited to join your fellow chamber members, business partners and customers at a **"Chamber Holiday Happy Hour" at Taffy's, 123 E. Main Street, Eaton, on December 10<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 p.m.**

Refreshments and snacks will be served.

Would your product or service make a great Christmas gift? If so, consider sponsoring this event and creating a small display to sell your product or gift certificate.

Contact Joanne Beineke at 937-572-8681 for information.

# Safety Council Update

By Kathy Schulz



For the November training topic, Dr Kevin Huban, a medical doctor from Miami Valley Hospital's Center for Sleep and Wake Disorders talked about sleep disorders and the potential link to workplace injuries. He spoke of excessive daytime sleepiness and the potential consequences like risk of accidents, reduced overall job efficiency, increased irritability, and occasional inability to remember information.

Sleep deprivation, irregular sleep schedules, alcohol and drugs, obstructive sleep apnea and narcolepsy are all potential causes of daytime sleepiness.

If you feel like you are suffering from daytime sleepiness, ensure you are getting an adequate amount of sleep at night- about 7-7.5 hours per night. Limit caffeine and alcohol consumption, particularly right before bedtime.

If these changes do not appear to reduce daytime sleepiness, contact your primary care physician.

For the December training topic, we will have a representative from the Preble County Sheriff's Office to talk about drug use within the County.

## WHISPERING OAKS BED AND BREAKFAST

Whispering Oaks Bed and Breakfast is now open for business. The location is 1881 Rt 127 North Eaton, Ohio. This bed and breakfast experience is the most unique you will find in this area. A very comfortable home situated on the

edge of town, in the middle of 54 acres, mostly wooded. Almost like a resort in Preble County. Our guests will enjoy hiking trails in the woods, hitting golf balls on our golf range, swimming in the pool, fishing or kayaking in the pond, working out in our fitness center or relaxing by the water garden. Rooms are furnished with queen size, high quality beds and linens, private baths, HD Cable TV's and all the comforts of home with wireless Internet, a book and movie library. Guests will enjoy evening appetizers and a homemade breakfast.

Whispering Oaks Bed and Breakfast is a member of the Ohio Bed and Breakfast Association and Preble County Chamber of Commerce. You may find out more information or register at [www.whisperingoaksbedandbreakfast.com](http://www.whisperingoaksbedandbreakfast.com) or [www.ohiobba.com](http://www.ohiobba.com).

Innkeepers, Mike Sowder and Debbi Hornbrook Sowder, invite chamber members to join us for a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, December 17th at 3:45 pm. and immediately following a Christmas Open House until 6:00 pm.

## “Member Profile: American Cancer Society”

**AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY  
RELAY FOR LIFE SUPPORTS  
CANCER SERVICES IN PREBLE  
COUNTY**



The American Cancer Society has announced that its Relay For Life event will return to Preble County on June 4, 2010 at the Preble County Fairgrounds.

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature event to fight cancer. Teams of volunteers walk around a track all night long to

signify that cancer never sleeps. Relay is the largest fundraising event to fight cancer. Learn more about the Relay in Preble County by calling 888-227-6446 ext. 4202 or visiting <http://www.relayforlife.org/preblecounty>.

Relay For Life allows the Society to provide cancer services directly to those who are touched by the disease in Preble County. One such example is the patient navigator program. Patient navigators provide expert help with the complex needs that can arise during the cancer journey for patients, families and caregivers in the Preble County area. The Society has a patient navigator assigned to every county in the state. Preble County's patient navigator, Robin Supinger, can be reached at 888-227-6446 ext. 8070.

Preble County residents also have access to the American Cancer Society's cancer information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) and 800-227-6446. When many other medical centers are closed, the American Cancer Society is always available with a live expert to provide round-the-clock, comforting information about cancer.

The Society also works for the people of Preble County by sponsoring life-saving research. Anyone in Preble County who's used the cancer-fighting drugs Gleevec, 5-FU, Rituxan, tamoxifen or Herceptin; gotten a Pap test; gotten a PSA test; gotten a mammogram; or avoided tobacco use because of its known link to cancer has benefited from discoveries made by American Cancer Society-funded research. The Society has funded \$3.4 billion in cancer research since 1946, and 44 researchers who have received Society funding have gone on to win a Nobel Prize.

So join the movement to save lives from cancer and create more birthdays. Sign up for the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Preble County or learn about sponsorship for the event by contacting Denise Elsas at 888-227-6446 ext. 4202.

The American Cancer Society saves lives and creates more birthdays by helping you stay well, helping you get well, by finding cures, and by fighting back. For more information anytime, call toll free 800-227-2345 or visit [cancer.org](http://cancer.org).



## Health Spot....

Sponsored by The Greenbriar

### How to Minimize the Negative Effects of Flying

It takes about an hour to recover for each time zone you cross while flying. A transcontinental flight spanning 5 time zones requires about 5 hours of recovery. But there are some ways to minimize the negative effects of flying and help keep you energetic after your flight:

- Beginning a week or so before your trip, [adjust your bedtime](#) an hour a day to accommodate the change in time zones.
- [Include some strength-building exercises](#) in your routine to make sure you are strong enough to lift and haul all those suitcases.
- [Take short brisk walks](#) while waiting at the airport.
- [Set your watch to local time](#) as soon as you board the plane.
- For long flights – particularly when flying east – [try to sleep on the plane](#) to account for lost sleep.
- If you can't get a full night of sleep, [try to take a short nap](#) once you reach your destination. Just 15-20 minutes can benefit the brain.

- [Walk around during the flight](#), and do light stretching.
- [Stay well-hydrated](#) by drinking water, 100% fruit drinks, and sports drinks.
- [Avoid alcohol](#) while traveling. It is dehydrating, acts as a depressant, and can worsen your jet lag symptoms. (If you are nervous about flying, ask your doctor about ways you can relax and make it through the flight.)
- [Eat healthfully](#), but lightly – and at regular intervals during your trip. Rushing to catch your flight, lugging a heavy suitcase through terminals, sitting in a cramped seat for a long time, experiencing flight delays, and dealing with crowds and noise can be stressful so be sure to begin your trip well-rested and anticipate delays and inconveniences. Slip a good book, a few healthy snacks, and other essentials (e.g., underwear and prescriptions in case your luggage is lost) into your carry-on bag. You might not be able to do anything about the screaming child on your flight, but you can wear earplugs!

*Flighthhealth.org. 2009.  
American College of Sports Medicine. 2009.*

## “Mallards at the Wetland”



The Preble County Park District along with their Friends of the Preble County Park District organization is offering a raffle for an original painting.

Roberta Loman, an Eaton resident and Park District volunteer, painted “Mallards at the Wetland”. The painting, sized 30” by 26”, is framed in barn board with a double acid-free mat board. The medium is Gouache on Strathmore 400 Bristol.

Only 50 raffle tickets at \$25.00 each will be sold. The painting will be on display at several different county locations.

Visit the web site: <http://www.preblecountyparkdistrict.org/friends-mallards.shtml> for complete information.



Preble County Historical Society, Inc.  
7698 Swatara Rd. Eaton, Ohio 45320

## 2009 Holiday Dinner Gingerbread House Decorating Contest

Dinner reservations are now being accepted for “*Dinner in the Gingerbread House*”, our 13<sup>th</sup> annual holiday dinner festivities. Seating is limited, reserve your seats soon. The Old Richmond Inn, Richmond, Indiana, will provide catering for the dinners once again. Bill of Fare this year is as follows: Appetizers in the log house and Exhibit Hall: dinner in the Sayler-Swartzel House: Dinner is offered at only \$45 per person for society members, \$55 per person for non-members. A wine selection and after dinner liqueurs will be available at additional cost. Join us for Preble County’s favorite evening of elegant dining, holiday festivities and entertainment. Your support will provide you with a delightful holiday experience and will assist the Society as we continue to strive for further growth and prosperity.

Call 937-787-4256 for more information about the gingerbread decorating contest and holiday dinners, or visit our web site: <http://www.pchs.preblecounty.com> or by email: [preblecohistoc@brecnet.com](mailto:preblecohistoc@brecnet.com).

## “New Member Profile: Chris A. Photography”



Chris Arnold is the "Chris A." behind Chris A. Photography. After a 20 year career in the military and 11 years working in the insurance business, Chris is finally doing his dream job. He's photographed the NFL's Green Bay Packers, three US. Presidents and literally hundreds of musicians and rock stars. "Where I'm different from other photographers is flexibility, efficiency and timeliness. Normally when I take photos within 24 hours of the event the photos are processed and ready for display on the web or to be printed."

A resident of West Alexandria, Chris has over 30 years pressing the shutter on a camera and he genuinely loves making photographs. "When I work with clients, the focus getting the absolute best photos that the environment, time and locations can provide. Weddings, portraits, events, and even pet photos all merit attention to detail, planning and creativity to ensure great photos. Communication with my clients is absolutely essential that's why an initial consultation is so important. I provide my clients, checklists, questionnaires and idea lists to help them determine exactly what they want, especially for weddings. My pricing is flexible and I believe anyone can afford me."

With a bachelor degree and a couple masters' degrees, Chris is well educated, well informed and business savvy. "I know that running a business is a challenging enterprise and I understand that capital needs to be spent wisely. My price structure is very, very fair, I'm timely and not interested in taking my clients to the

cleaners with inflated prices for prints, duplication fees or other such nonsense. I want repeat business. I want to establish relationships that transcend simply making profit. My clients pay for my time and my experience and they have the right to expect a high-level product in return. I'm a huge proponent of Preble County and support our local businesses, civic and charitable organizations and I encourage people to "think Preble" when buying products or services. I absolutely believe that by leveraging photography to showcase your product or service will result in increased sales for my business/corporate clients. I'll guarantee I can make your website more attractive and eye catching by integrating sophisticated photography into your web presentation.

If a picture is worth 1000 words, visit his website at [www.chrisa.us](http://www.chrisa.us) where his body of work can vouch for his level of skill and creativity. At that same site you can find out more about Chris A. Photography and the various types of photographic services he provides. If you need business portraits, images of your facility, product photography, or if you're hosting a party or event (or know someone getting married) and would like great photographs to document the event, think Chris A. Photography. Please drop him a line if you have questions or comments.

I'm very pleased to be a part of the Preble Chamber of Commerce and I look forward to meeting other members and becoming involved in the organization.



“HAPPY HOLIDAYS”

## “Welcome” New Chamber Members!

### **Chris A. Photography**

Chris Arnold  
33 W. Dayton Street  
West Alexandria, OH 45381  
Phone: 937-572-5581  
Email: [chris@chrisa.us](mailto:chris@chrisa.us)  
Website: [www.chrisa.us](http://www.chrisa.us)  
Product/Service: Full service photography, wedding, events, sports, portraits, commercial & business, photo-journalism

### **Jefco Machine Service, Inc.**

Kaye Heagy  
460 Vanessa Drive  
West Alexandria, OH 45381  
Phone: 937-839-1026  
Fax: 937-839-5370  
Email: [jefco@woh.rr.com](mailto:jefco@woh.rr.com)  
Product/Service: Service & repair of CNC & manual machines at customers location

### **Kramer Power Equipment Co.**

Sharon Kramer, Secretary  
2388 Route 726  
Eaton, OH 45320  
Phone: 937-456-2232  
Fax: 937-456-2282  
Email: [skramer@kramerusa.com](mailto:skramer@kramerusa.com)  
Website: [www.kramerusa.com](http://www.kramerusa.com)  
Product/Service: Machine Shop

### **Preble County Art Association, Inc.**

Erin Abney  
601 Hillcrest Drive  
Eaton, OH 45320  
Phone: 937-456-3999  
Email: [pcaa@takepartinart.net](mailto:pcaa@takepartinart.net)  
Website: [www.takepartinart.net](http://www.takepartinart.net)  
Product/Service: Art Center for purpose of displaying art related theme shows, school-age children's shows, provide instructional classes & a venue for artists to sell their works